

## Urban Explorer

"They're little New Yorkers. I'll drag them all over," says Fey of downtime with her daughters. "They're gonna be like, 'Mommy, go back to work!'"

## TINA FEY'S

# Life After 30 ROCK

AFTER MORE THAN SIX YEARS, THE STAR SAYS GOODBYE TO HER NBC SITCOM AND HELLO TO THE SILVER SCREEN (AND LIFE ON THE PLAYGROUND)

BY LESLEY MESSER

**T**o most of the world, Tina Fey's stint as cohost of the Golden Globes was memorable for all the right reasons: Her one-liners killed; her chemistry with her former *Saturday Night Live* colleague Amy Poehler was palpable; and she looked fantastic. "We did a total of nine minutes of material, probably," Fey says of her onstage time with Poehler. "But people were so nice to us about it. I'm gonna ride that to the grave. I'm gonna be like, 'Remember that time me and Amy told jokes for seven minutes?'" But for one viewer—the comedian's 7-year-old, Alice—her appearance on what the little girl dubbed the Trophy Awards didn't exactly resonate. "She drew a picture of me and Amy in our gowns," recalls Fey. "It's a pretty good drawing, but she did these dialogue bubbles with big question marks in them. She was like, 'They're because I didn't understand any of your jokes!'"

These days Fey's littlest critic (her other child, 19-month-old Penelope, isn't quite as articulate yet) is becoming more of a con-

stant companion since the series finale of *30 Rock* aired earlier this year. Now that she's not logging 17-hour days on-set, Fey, 42, has more time for herself—"I've been turning back into a person who is like, 'I can go to the gym sometimes!'"—and, more importantly, for her kids and husband, composer Jeff Richmond, 52. "We took a vacation to Disney World," she says. "That was really good. My older daughter is past the age of complete obsession with the princesses, but my little one loved meeting Winnie the Pooh, Tigger and Mickey and Minnie. Anything with a big furry head."

## Sibling Revelry

"Your first child looks at you [adoringly], and the second one is like, 'Move, I have to see my sister,'" says Fey of Alice and Penelope (last year). "She's definitely in love with her older sister."





Now costarring with Paul Rudd in the romantic comedy *Admission*, in which she plays a Princeton University admissions officer, Fey says the film's subject matter hit close to home. "My mom, for whatever reason, really wanted me to apply to Princeton," she says. "I was a good student, but there was no way I was getting in. I went to my interview, and from the get-go was like, 'Yeah, I don't got this.' I was just a shy kid from the suburbs." Years later it was Fey's turn to be the mom with big dreams. "We took our older daughter to one preschool interview, and there was wallpaper in the waiting room with animals on it," she recalls. "And the lady came out and said to my then not even quite 3-year-old, 'What animal is this?' and pointed to a giraffe. And my daughter said confidently, 'A zebra!' The lady was like, 'Time to go to the zoo.'" But Fey is unfazed: "It all worked out. She continues to be educated."

At home and, now, abroad. This month she'll be in London to begin working on the *Muppets* sequel and plans on bringing her brood. Hitting up all the major tourist sights is on the agenda. "I hope I can really wear [the kids] out," she says, noting that she and her husband are always "back-timing—that's a live-TV term. We're like, the baby is going to be up at six, so the goal is to be asleep by 10. Luckily nothing gets you passed out in bed by 9:30 like a toddler."

### Her Leading Men



"He's so smart," says Fey of costar Rudd (top). She and husband Jeff Richmond (bottom) have been married for 11 years.



She's going to need all the rest she can get. In addition to developing her 2004 cult-classic film *Mean Girls* into a stage musical with her husband, Fey says she has two more films on the horizon. (Those wondering if she would consider applying her Globes-hosting prowess to an Oscar gig shouldn't get their hopes up: "Just the sheer amount of dresses you'd have to try on? No way. I'd have to try on 400 dresses to get to the 60 needed," she says.) She's also confronting new fears every day. Though learning a Russian accent for *The Muppets... Again!* has been nerve-racking—"Thank goodness it's a comedy, because if I was trying to learn this accent for a war movie, I'd be so

stressed," she says—nothing can compare to the angst caused by her love scenes with Rudd in *Admission*. "It was a terrifying nightmare," she says. "To clarify how much I like this stuff: I had a long-standing agreement with my hair and makeup people that when we shot the last romantic scene, we'd get McDonald's. That's what kept me going. My goal was to get through the scenes without apologizing, like, 'It's all going to be fine, and then I'll get a double fish filet. Then I got one and immediately regretted it.'" In the future she may have to try a different type of motivation. M&Ms, perhaps? Not a bad idea, she muses: "That's how they got Osama bin Laden ultimately." ●

## Taking a Piece of the Rock

Fey didn't have to look far for souvenirs from her seven seasons on *30 Rock*—many were already in her closet. "I have so many striped shirts that I just steal from Liz Lemon," she says of the hapless heroine she created. "One day I was in the edit room cutting together a montage, and when we found this one old shot I realized, 'Oh my God, I am literally, right now, wearing that shirt.'" The garments didn't exactly break the bank. "When a show ends, you have to pay to keep any costume that's worth over a certain amount, but all of Liz's striped shirts from nowhere cruised under the minimum," Fey reports. In the end she also nabbed a few mementos—and shed a few tears. "Everyone was just so fragile," she says of the final table read. "But it was very sweet."

